Wisconsin 2014 LSTA Grant Abstracts

Abstracts for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) projects approved for funding in Wisconsin in 2014 are available below. These abstracts were included as part of the online grant applications submitted by grant applicants in September 2013. The abstracts are arranged in order by LSTA grant categories.

Contents

Digital Creation Technology

Fond du Lac Public Library   **14-135**
Creative Community Space   **$13,635**

The Fond du Lac Public Library will establish a Creative Community Space within the library, dedicating materials, staff, and physical space to the pursuit of science and technology exploration, art and music expression, and other creative discovery by individuals and groups within the Fond du Lac community.

Through collaboration and partnership with various community groups such as the Fond du Lac School District's STEM School, the newly formed Imagination Network club, as well as affiliated partners MakeBit and Maker Meetup, the Creative Community Space will further enhance the vision of a locally branded Downtown Arts and Entertainment District.

Providing access to cutting edge tools and equipment such as 3D Printers and Scanners, HD Video cameras, computers, electronic kits, and even a kitchen, the space will be able to offer a wider range of programs, sessions, workshops and collaborative events than ever before.

Major goals for this project relate to Community engagement and growth, access to resources, and Library relevance in the 21st Century.

Hustisford Community Library   **14-137**
MobileMAKE   **$19,939**

Public libraries from East Troy, Hustisford, Lomira, Palmyra and Whitewater have teamed up to share resources and expertise to create a mobile technology space for creating and sharing information. The purpose of this MobileMAKE project is to give rural South Central Wisconsin children and adults opportunities to learn about new technology through participatory or experiential learning and play. Rural libraries are often the heart of the community, but lack the resources of their urban counterparts. The MobileMAKE project presents a unique opportunity for rural Wisconsin residents to participate in cutting edge technologies and innovations such as 3D printing and robotics. Our libraries aid lifelong learning, and serve to collect, organize, and preserve the stories that make up our civilization. Though we still

consider the "traditional" aspects of our mission, such as encouraging a love of reading, we are continually looking for ways to expand our mission. In addition, public libraries need to think just as much about supporting the production of knowledge in the community as they do about the consumption of knowledge in the community. The libraries have elicited support from their communities, businesses, and nonprofits for donated in-kind time and resources. In so doing, the participating libraries have asked for $19,939 in LSTA funds for materials to set up a first class makerspace that can be moved to different locations that is flexible enough to sponsor numerous projects that support the basics in Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) education.

Madison Public Library   **14-139**
Bubbling Up! (Digital Creation for Teens at Madison Public Library)$19,899

Bubbling Up! (Digital Creation for Teens at Madison Public Library) will allow Madison Public Library to showcase its Bubbler program and Digital Media Lab space to Madison and Dane County area teenagers through partnering with organizations who serve low-income teens. Through participation in the program, teens can use the library's digital technologies to learn, share and create. The teen internship program will pair teens with an adult mentor to work on self-guided digital learning projects of interest to them and to gain relevant teaching and work experience and professional connections for seeking employment or higher education in the field of digital media production. The library will provide a series of workshops throughout the year that will give all area teens the chance to learn how to create their own video games for competitions with their peers. A series of summer workshops around the city will be set up to teach teens the basics of storytelling and digital production, leaving them with the chance to earn the first annual Summer Reading Digital Badge by reading a book, writing a review, and creating a book trailer video.   Madison Public Library will be a place for Madison teens to learn, share, and create.

Oshkosh Public Library   **14-141**
DCS@OPL   **$4,818**

The Oshkosh Public Library will develop a digital creation space called DCS@OPL which will include a publishing center and a podcasting studio. The library will further its commitment to the digital revolution by providing training and access to digital technologies in order to encourage and empower community members of all ages, both digital natives as well as digital migrants, to create new digital content.

The Publishing Center will provide community members with training and access to computers, equipment, and software to be used to create not only their book but promotional materials for their books as well. Library programing will include a professional speaker series focusing on important facets of independent publishing. In keeping with the Wisconsin Common Core Standards, "employ technology thoughtfully to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use", the Children & Family Outreach Department will be targeting school-age children by partnering with staff from Emmeline Cook Elementary School for a Create-A-Book contest. There will also be collaboration with established library youth groups (Teen Advisory Group, Teen Book Club, and Tween Create Group).

The Podcasting Studio will provide community members with training and access to professional digital recording equipment in order to inspire and facilitate digital creativity in the form of podcasts. In the first year, the Oshkosh Public Library will partner with the Winnebagoland Genealogical Society to produce a series of Genealogical Society podcasts sharing knowledge and personal experience conducting genealogical research in Winnebago County.

Ongoing training programs for both the community members and library staff will ensure the sustainability and durability of DCS@OPL The library will actively seek additional school partnerships for the publishing center and community organizations for the podcasting studio.

Digital Content Buying Pool Grant

Arrowhead Library System	14-101	$4,407
Eastern Shores Library System	14-103	$5,643
Indianhead Federated Library System	14-105	$12,513
Kenosha County Library System	14-107	$4,224
Lakeshores Library System	14-109	$6,365
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	14-111	$2,797
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System	14-113	$7,719
Milwaukee County Federated Library System	14-115	$20,182
Nicolet Federated Library System	14-117	$10,802
Northern Waters Library Service	14-119	$4,221
Outagamie Waupaca Library System	14-121	$6,297
South Central Library System	14-123	$26,329
Southwest Wisconsin Library System	14-125	$3,296
Waukesha County Federated Library System	14-127	$12,456
Winding Rivers Library System	14-129	$7,082

| Winnefox Library System | 14-131 |
| | $8,353 |

| Wisconsin Valley Library Service | 14-133 |
| | $7,314 |

Public Library System Technology Projects

| Arrowhead Library System | 14-151 |
| ALS Technology Projects 2014 | $9,600 |

Arrowhead Library System will create a mobile makerspace that will travel to member libraries for makerspace programs. The makerspace will give library patrons and the local community an opportunity to explore and test new technologies and equipment in a safe environment. The makerspace will also provide the opportunity for the community to collaborate with one another. It will also allow patrons to explore and learn at their own pace, focusing on their own interests to meet their technology goals.

ALS will maintain effective and secure connection for member libraries to the ILS by purchasing adequate WAN bandwidth. It will not be used to purchase Internet Service.

| Eastern Shores Library System | 14-153 |
| Wide Area Network Access for ESLS 2014 | $11,200 |

Eastern Shores Library System (ESLS) and Manitowoc-Calumet Library System (MCLS) have been providing wide area network (WAN) access to their member libraries since 1998. Each member library in the two systems has a TEACH circuit into the BadgerNet Converged

Network (BCN), connecting to networking equipment in the ESLS offices in Sheboygan. The ESLS office connects via TEACH / BCN to WiscNet, the system's network services provider. ESLS has 50MB of transport to WiscNet, and 50MB for WAN traffic, for a total of

100MB with the BCN. The connection to the BCN is fiber. The support for the network services are shared by ESLS and MCLS, 2/3 and 1/3 respectively. This LSTA grant will provide funding for Eastern Shores Library System's share of the total telecommunications

costs from TEACH. The grant will also pay for part of the cost of the system's member libraries' TEACH line to the BadgerNet WAN. Amount of Federal Funds Requested: $11,200.00

| Indianhead Federated Library System | 14-155 |
| IFLS System Technology Projects | $34,000 |

The main theme of the IFLS's technology projects this year is doing more with less and sharing. The projects we're planning are:

1. IFLS server upgrades

2. Continued support of select databases and the TextALibrarian service

3. Create a training lab equipped for hosting training webinars and in-person, small group training.

4. Desktop Management Software to increase our technology support while maximizing staff time

5. Create a mobile digitization lab for the use of our libraries suitable for digitizing books, microfilm, and photos.

Kenosha County Library System   **14-157**
2014 KCLS Systemwide Resources and Services   **$9,000**

This 2014 Library System Technology Project for Kenosha County Library System will be to purchase Systemwide Library Resources and Services. The purchase will include the annual membership to the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium to allow for better pricing on the products offered on the Wisconsin Digital Library. The grant money will also purchase an annual subscription to Syndetics for cover art used in the web opac for the Kenosha County libraries. Finally, the grant will purchase upgrade or training costs for the County ILS product.

Lakeshores Library System   **14-159**
2014 Lakeshores Library System Technology Projects   **$14,500**

Funds from the 2014 LSTA Public Library System Technology Project grant will be used to enhance current network technology services to our member libraries, improve our ability to support our libraries' IT needs, conduct internal training for our libraries, and contract for Integrated Library System (ILS) database clean up work.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System   **14-161**
T1 Lines   **$8,400**

This project will help the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System (MCLS) and its six member libraries to continue to participate in a high-speed, wide area network that is supported cooperatively by MCLS and the Eastern Shores Library System.

LSTA funds will be used to pay for T1 lines for Manitowoc-Calumet's six member libraries at the TEACH-subsidized annual rate of $1,200 per library. The grant will also help pay for MCLS's T1 line as well. Under a contract with the Eastern Shores Library System, MCLS will use local funds to pay for the central site costs, administration, technical support, and a MCLS's share of email and Internet service.

The wide area network supported in part by this grant provides the telecommunications backbone for the shared automation systems in both Manitowoc-Calumet and Eastern Shores. Within MCLS, all six member libraries currently participate in a shared SirsiDynix ILS through the Manitowoc-Calumet Libraries Automated Resource Sharing Consortium (LARS).   All of the libraries' OPACS are available over the network, and all six libraries use the network for Internet access. (Even though Internet access is enabled by the wide area network, use of LSTA funds for T1 telecommunications lines as proposed in this project does not require compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act filtering requirements for participating libraries.)

Providing high-speed, reliable telecommunications through the Eastern Shores/MCLS wide area network is one way for MCLS to offer a valuable and much-needed service. MCLS will be able to invest in continuing collaboration with ESLS in 2014. MCLS member libraries have repeatedly confirmed that they want the System to continue to maintain the network as a vital system service. By allocating LSTA technology funds to pay for the T1 lines, which represent a substantial portion of network costs, this grant will help assure that Manitowoc-Calumet libraries and their patrons, the continuation of access to ready and reliable telecommunications to support resource sharing, communications, Internet access, and other activities.

Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System　　　　　　　　　**14-163**
2013 Services And Technology Act (LSTA) Application 2013　　**$17,600**

1.　　Provide Adequate Bandwidth For MWFLS WAN: $3000.00 will be used to purchase ITp or WAN bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN. $8736.00 will be used for technician training and equipment.

2.　　WLPC membership: $5864.00 will be used to continue MWFLS WLPC Membership in order to maintain Overdrive subscription

Milwaukee County Federated Library System　　　　　　**14-165**
MCFLS System Technology Projects - 2014　　　　　　　　**$37,100**

MCFLS plans to utilize the 2014 Library System Technology Project funds toward the following :

1) Subscription to NoveList OPAC enhancements - cover images, annotations, reviews, reading recommendations, table of contents, author biographies, publisher summaries, series info, and awards.

2) Purchase of Linux Application Server in conjunction with our integrated library system migration to the Sierra platform. LSTA funds will be used to help offset the costs of the server.

Nicolet Federated Library System　　　　　　　　　　　**14-167**
Online Database Support　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**$28,400**

NFLS in cooperation with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) purchases subscriptions to a variety of databases (Ancestry, HeritageQuest, Literary Reference Center, Learn A Test, Tumblebooks, and Learning Express Library) to supplement the state-supplied BadgerLink databases. This project will provide part of the financial support for the NFLS portion of the total database costs. OWLS is the contracting agency, and NFLS provides funding to OWLS for the NFLS portion of the database costs. Access to the databases is available to all users of the OWLSnet Innovative Interfaces integrated library system (InfoSoup.org), as well as to all users of the Brown County Library's Sirsi-Dynix integrated library system. Access to the databases is made available to all the libraries in both systems, as well as to users who log in to either the Brown County Library or OWLSnet websites from home or anywhere, using their library card barcode number.

Northern Waters Library Service　　　　　　　　　　　**14-169**
NWLS Technology and Database Project　　　　　　　　　**$23,700**

Northern Waters Library Service is maintaining a high level of information technology, thanks to the support of the LSTA grant category. Without this support, NWLS would not be able to provide this level of service to our member libraries. Northern Waters Library Service covers a large and scarcely populated region of northern Wisconsin, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined) with a population of 149,937. Twenty one of our twenty eight member libraries are located in communities with a population of fewer than 2,000. Along with the large area and low population, the NWLS region is an economically disadvantaged area of the state. Of the 21,740 students in the Northern Waters area, 53% receive free or reduced lunches. The erate school lunch data show the following discounts: Lac du Flambeau 90%; Ashland, Bayfield, Drummond, Hayward, Hurley, Phelps, Shell Lake, Solon Springs, Mellen, Spooner, Webster and Winter 80%; Washburn, Maple, Boulder Junction, Grantsburg 70%; Superior and Northland Pines 60%. The accompanying social, educational, and community needs resulting from this level of poverty must be served by agencies such as strong public libraries. These LSTA funds provide much needed support to keep these communities networked to the bigger world of information.

The NWLS Technology and Database Project funds will be used to purchase subscriptions to shared online databases chosen by NWLS staff with input from member library staff. This LSTA project will fund: (1) Ancestry Library Edition, an extensive library genealogy research tool. (2) WorldCat, a worldwide catalog of library collections that include more than 67 million bibliographic records with items in many different formats. (3) Membership in the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC). Membership in WPLC provides access to downloadable audiobooks, eBooks and other media. (4) LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator, library users can explore careers, find jobs and get help with resumes, cover letters and interview. (5) Enhancements to Merlin, the NWLS shared online catalog. (6) Training for NWLS IT staff. The high level of training required by IT staff is expensive and often a distance from the NWLS area.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System   **14-171**
Support for OWLSnet data circuits   **$13,800**

OWLSnet member libraries use data circuits to provide internet access to their patrons and to take advantage of OWLSnet services.

LSTA funds will be used to assist in paying for bandwidth for OWLSnet member libraries. OWLS currently pays $94,860 for data circuits. Additional bandwidth is needed at some member libraries, and it is anticipated that additional bandwidth will be secured. LSTA funding will make it more feasible to pay for any additional bandwidth.

South Central Library System   **14-173**
Technology Services Coordinator   **$42,500**

The 2014 Public Library System Technology grant will be used to:

Provide RFID tags to libraries using RFID technologies so that they can tag materials borrowed from non-RFID libraries, facilitating resource sharing and improving the checkout experience for patrons. ($2,000)

Expand access to 3rd party databases of electronic resources such as OverDrive and Ebscohost by integrating them into the searching interface of LibLime Koha ($17,100)

Purchase network equipment to increase the bandwidth in libraries with a critical need ($15,000)

Provide assistance for libraries planning to join the shared ILS (LINKcat) using the open source LibLime Koha software ($8,000)

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   **14-175**
SWLS 2014 Technology Projects   **$14,000**

Just under 50% of the libraries in the Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS) have operating budgets under the Wisconsin Public Library Standards recommendation of $69,300. With such small budgets, many libraries in SWLS do not provide access to online databases other than those provided by the State (Badgerlink) or those provided by SWLS (Overdrive, MangoLanguages, ConsumerReports.org, Cypress Resume and A to Z Travel). Each year, usage of these database grows. This grant allows patrons of SWLS libraries continued access to two popular databases, MangoLanguages and ConsumerReports.org, that the many SWLS libraries could not provide on their own.

Waukesha County Federated Library System   **14-177**
Open Content Server   **$17,600**

This project will allow the Waukesha County Federated Library System (WCFLS) to pilot an emerging technology with electronic materials, an open content server. This server will allow WCFLS to own

electronic materials purchased, purchase materials from small publishers and allow for access to self published materials. The project will also establish a path for other library systems to join in the future.

Winding Rivers Library System   14-179
WRLS Historical Images Project (Public Library System Technology Grant) $22,600

The Winding Rivers Library System will expand access to unique history materials in twenty-three of its member public libraries by creating a regional online collection of visual images (photographs and postcards) representing western Wisconsin history and culture. Library staff and volunteers will receive training to scan and develop metadata for at least 1500 images. All images will be included on the WRLS project website, and will be searchable through the shared online public catalog. Images will be harvested by Recollection Wisconsin and included on its website. Libraries will collaborate with area historical organizations to promote the collections and offer programs to introduce them to the public. WRLS member librarians will have the opportunity to use more webinars for their continuing education needs.

Winnefox Library System   14-181
Winnefox Technology Project $19,100

The grant funds will be used to help pay for several features on our WALS automated catalog/circulation system that will benefit our member libraries and their users.

For several years, we have purchased additional content for our OPAC records: Contents notes, reviews, excerpts, and cover art from Syndetic Solutions. The added content for the catalog has been well received by both library staff and patrons and has enhanced the usefulness of the OPAC.

We will continue to maintain a Z39.50 interface to allow other libraries ILL access to our catalog.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service   14-183
Security, Efficiency, and Technology - Part 3 $26,900

During 2014, WVLS intends to use the LSTA Technology Grant to support three projects: A continuation of Network Security and Bandwidth Improvement, a continuation of Virtualization Technology Deployment, and a continuation of 21st Century Technology implementation (including a continuation of eReader accessibility to patrons and a subsidy for system-wide digital content platform acquisition).

Delivery Services

Northern Waters Library Service   14-187
NWLS Delivery Service $15,000

Delivery has been an established, accepted, important, and expensive element of NWLS service since October of 1998. Using the combination of federal, state, and county funds, NWLS will continue to support the delivery service, as the service of choice, among its member libraries. Delivery is integral to resource sharing: the level of efficiency of the delivery network determines the level of satisfaction of patrons and library staff.

The growth of resource sharing as a result of increased access to resources is phenomenal in the NWLS area. The number of interlibrary loan items loaned by NWLS libraries increased 3.26% from 2011 to 2012 (the last year we have complete statistics). Interlibrary loan items received by NWLS member libraries increased 2.62% from 2011 to 2012. The delivery service is the lifeblood of NWLS area resource sharing. Small rural libraries have never had the potential to serve their customers as well as they do now with the improved access to materials and efficient and regular delivery of materials. With

messages for cooperation and collaboration buzz words in the state budget news, the resource sharing provided by rural libraries is timely and effective. Statistics from Wisconsin Quickfacts from the U.S. Census Bureau (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html) show that the median income for a family in Wisconsin is $52,374. For NWLS area families, the median income is much lower, $40,911, 78% lower than the statewide median income (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html). Therefore it takes a greater percentage of our region's resources to compete with libraries in more affluent areas of the state. Another challenge to efficient and cost effective delivery service is the size and scarcity of the NWLS region, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined), with a population of approximately 150,000. Twenty one of our twenty eight libraries are located in communities with a population of fewer than 2,000. The demographic reality is that persons living in rural areas have fewer resources and therefore may receive the most benefit from effective and efficient library services.

South Central Library System   14-189
Delivery Services $75,000

South Central Library System (SCLS) provides the intersystem connection of the statewide delivery service. SCLS will use the grant funds to underwrite the vehicle maintenance and fuel costs related to the statewide delivery service for public library systems. This service is vital for the physical delivery support of interlibrary loan materials. The LSTA funds subsidize the share of costs each of the 17 public library systems in Wisconsin is responsible to fund for their continued participation.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Lakeshores Library System   14-203
East Troy Railroad Collection $2,055

The East Troy Public Library, in collaboration with the East Troy Railroad Museum, the East Troy Historical Society, and the East Troy Viewfinders Photography Club, is seeking a grant to undertake a digitization project related to the East Troy Electric Railroad, to be hosted in CONTENTdm by the Milwaukee Public Library and incorporated in the Recollection Wisconsin website. The primary goal of this project is to create a collection that people can use to better understand local history and the important role that the East Troy Railroad played. However, we have several related goals, including to strengthen community pride and the relationships amongst all the organizations involved, and to build up the local knowledge base and solid project procedures necessary to continue to digitize further material for this collection in the future.

The idea for this project came about when Alison Senkevitch, Library Director, asked various community leaders what they considered the most important elements of East Troy's history, identity, and culture. The East Troy Railroad was the near universal answer, and we suspect that East Troy is not the only Wisconsin community in which the Railroad played a central role in the history and development of that community. Therefore, we think that other people from other communities will also find the collection interesting, useful, and relevant. The first categories of objects we hope to digitize are issues of a magazine published by the Milwaukee Railroad and Light Company first published in 1905 for the purposes of marketing the Company and keeping company employees and community residents informed during the construction of the Railroad. The second category of objects is the various physical artifacts housed in the East Troy Railroad Museum, such as ticket punchers, lanterns, and log books.

To implement this project, we will utilize volunteers from all of the partner organizations. Volunteers will help with such tasks as scanning the documents, and assigning metadata. In order to ensure that this volunteer work is consistently of high quality and that the metadata is standardized, Alison and the other project leaders will carefully document our procedure and create detailed training manuals for the

volunteers. To evaluate how useful our finished collection on Recollection Wisconsin is, we will implement various evaluation tools, such as short evaluation forms asking users of our collection about their experience. We will use the feedback we receive to continue to refine our procedures and improve the collection. While much of the cost of this project will be local funds donated "in-kind" (for example, the time spent by volunteers), the LSTA funds received will largely be spent on one-time and capital expenses (such as a scanner and a laptop dedicated to this project). We also budgeted LSTA funds for two long-term storage solutions for our files—a RAID storage device and the first year of "cloud storage" with the Amazon Simple Storage Service.

In summary, we believe that this is a worthwhile, well-structured project that will help people, both in East Troy, and from around the state, discover the wealth of information that is encased in the East Troy Railroad Organization's collection. Besides the Collection itself, we will gain the stronger partnerships and knowledge base necessary both be more effective as we continue to digitize material and as we embark on other collaborative projects. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Milwaukee Public Library　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　14-205
Milwaukee Historic Trade Card Collection　　　　　　　　　$3,950

The Milwaukee Historic Trade Card Collection is a project to digitize images from six scrapbooks in the Milwaukee Public Library's collection. The scrapbooks contain 386 trade cards that document Milwaukee's advertising, pop-culture, graphic design and business history.

Trade cards, also known as advertising cards, are small cards that businesses would distribute to clients and potential customers. They are the precursor of modern business cards. Funding from this project would go toward careful scanning of the trade cards to create a digital collection, promotion of the collection through a library exhibit, and purchasing archival quality supplies to properly house and preserve the scrapbooks.

Trade cards of Milwaukee's businesses reflect the growth and economic/cultural development of Wisconsin's largest urban area and will be of interest to local, state, and regional scholars; local students; genealogists; businesses; and more.

This project complements MPL's current digitization efforts and will add to, but not replace those efforts for 2014.

Mineral Point Public Library　　　　　　　　　　　　　　14-207
Mineral Point Library Archives Digitization Project　　　　$3,157

This project will digitize 250 photographs of Mineral Point residences and make them available online through Recollection Wisconsin. The collection will appeal to people with an interest in a specific Mineral Point residence, and to anyone with an interest in early Wisconsin history. This is the first phase of a long term plan to digitize most of the resources held by the Mineral Point Library Archives. The work will be done by a volunteer with the supervision of Archive staff.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System　　　　　　　　　　　14-209
Expanding the Infosoup Memory Project　　　　　　　　　$3,860

OWLS is seeking LSTA funds to digitize over 3000 pages of local history resources held by Appleton Public Library and Scandinavia Public Library for inclusion in the Infosoup Memory Project, our CONTENTdm repository for local history (memory.infosoup.org). The goals of this project are to provide online access to local history resources that are not currently accessible to the public or that are currently only available for use in the library, and to promote the central role of public libraries in recording and preserving community memory. Some fragile items will be scanned in-house with an LSTA funded

scanner, and the bulk of the collection will be sent to a vendor for scanning. LSTA funds will also be used to purchase OCR software and appropriate long-term storage and back up media for the master image files.

Winding Rivers Library System   14-211
WRLS Historical Images Project (Digitization Grant) $5,000

The Winding Rivers Library System will expand access to unique history materials in twenty-three of its member public libraries by creating a regional online collection of visual images (photographs and postcards) representing western Wisconsin history and culture. Library staff and volunteers will receive training to scan and develop metadata for at least 1500 images. All images will be included on the WRLS project website, and will be searchable through the shared online public catalog. Images will be harvested by Recollection Wisconsin and included on its website. Libraries will collaborate with area historical organizations to promote the collections and offer programs to introduce them to the public.

Accessibility Projects

Arrowhead Library System   14-229
Hearing Loops for Rock County Libraries $5,222

With hearing loss, one of the most common disabilities, hearing loops are an extremely cost efficient and convenient way of providing assistance to those hearing impaired patrons who use hearing aids or have cochlear implants. The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is applying for 2014 LSTA Public Library System Accessibility in Public Libraries Grant to install a total of eleven service desk hearing loops in our seven member libraries. Four service desk loops will be installed at the Hedberg Public Library (Janesville) and two service desk loops will be installed at the Beloit Public Library. The Clinton, Eager Free (Evansville), Edgerton, Milton and Orfordville Public Libraries will each have a single service desk loop installed. It is also the intention of this grant to raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. The estimated cost of this project is $6,424. This grant will fund $5,222 with the remaining $1,202 coming from local funds. ALS will coordinate with Metro Sound & Video for hearing loop installation and initial staff training at the seven ALS member libraries. ALS will also create and distribute supplemental training and promotional materials to its member libraries. In addition ALS will work with hearing loop advocate Juliette Sterkens to promote, and train library staff to promote hearing loops to patrons with hearing loss, hearing care providers, and the community at large.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System   14-231
Hearing Loops Installation $6,000

Hearing loops are not the result of new technology, as this technology has long been available in Europe. As the awareness of the advantages that result from installing hearing loops takes root in the United States, the increase in installations is beginning to gain momentum among organizations that serve the public at large. The chosen, local vendor for this project, DRS Sound, has looped many locations throughout Wisconsin, and has been contracted by organizations as far away as the University of Delaware for installation services. While churches appear to be the leaders in implementing this technology in Wisconsin, other types of organizations such as performing arts centers and libraries are also investing in this trend. Within the system area, DRS Sound has already looped two churches in Kiel, one in Brillion, two in Manitowoc, as well as Manitowoc County's Courthouse. Indeed, it is time for our libraries to join the ranks of these forward-thinking community organizations in an effort to fully serve the public's needs.

The goal of this project is to proudly add the MCLS member libraries to the list of community organizations that lead the way in providing appropriate accommodations for community members. Therefore, the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System is requesting assistance from LSTA to achieve three main objectives. 1) Install hearing loops at each library to improve customer service and customer satisfaction in the library environment, 2) provide library staff with training that will provide knowledge of best practices using a hearing loop and raising awareness of hearing disabilities, and 3) promote the library as an advocate of individuals with hearing loss and set an example of providing accommodations for members with special needs for the rest of the community.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System   14-233
Hearing Loops in OWLS Libraries $19,000

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent disabilities. Hearing loops are an effective and convenient way to provide hearing assistance to patrons with hearing aids or cochlear implants. The Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) is applying for a 2014 LSTA Public Library System Accessibility in Public Libraries Grant to install hearing loops in meeting rooms at two new library facilities in Hortonville and Kaukauna and to raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. The project is estimated to cost $19,000. OWLS will coordinate hearing loop installation, create and distribute promotional materials to participating libraries, and work with Juliette Sterkens of Fox Valley Hearing Loop, LLC to train library staff and promote the hearing loops to patrons with hearing loss, hearing care providers, and the community at large.

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   14-235
Hearing Loops in Southwest Wisconsin $9,640

The purpose of this project is to facilitate the installation of hearing loop systems in nine (9) member library locations.

Major goals of the grant:

1.Hearing loop systems will be installed in nine (9) SWLS member library locations: Barnveld, Dodgeville,Fennimore, Gays Mills, Livingston, Lone Rock, Mineral Point, Prairie du Chien, and Soldiers Grove.

2.Provide participating library staff with the knowledge and skills to promote and use the hearing loop systems and to enhance their understanding of barriers to library service for those with hearing loss.

3.Raise awareness about the availability and use of hearing loop systems in the participating communities through marketing and outreach to the target audience.

The Hearing Loss Association of America (www.hearingloss.org)estimates that about 20% of adults in the United States, 48 million, report some degree of hearing loss. While hearing loss increases as we age, the majority of people with hearing loss are under age 65. Since hearing loss is an invisible condition, it is often hard to tell if a person is hearing-impaired. Communication becomes difficult and there is evidence that hearing impairment can lead to faster rates of mental decline in older people.

The participating libraries have noticed an increase in patrons with

hearing loss and hearing aids. When asked how a hearing loop system would improve library services for their patrons with hearing loss, the following responses were made.

Trudie Freymiller, director of the Dwight Parker Public Library in Fennimore, stated:"There are several patrons who have hearing aids, and yet they don't hear you. This will be a wonderful addition to our library."

Carrie Portz, director of the Barneveld Public Library, shared: "I have numerous patrons who struggle to hear in my very crowded and noisy library. It can be difficult for them to hear even across the circulation desk. I know a hearing loop would have a real positive impact on their library experience."

Rita Mango, director of the Lone Rock Community Library, responded: "This technology should be more readily available as our population ages. Hearing loss is not something that most people will advertise, so this kind of built in assistance is very helpful."

Waukesha County Federated Library System   14-237
Portable Hearing Loop Systems for Service Desks $4,670

Hearing loss is a major public health issue that is the third most common physical condition, after arthritis and heart disease (HearingLoss.org). Hearing loops are a cost-effective, convenient and invisible way to provide hearing assistance to patrons with hearing aids or cochlear implants. The Waukesha County Federated Library System (WCFLS) is applying for a 2014 LSTA Serving Special Populations Accessibility Project Grant to install service desk loops at eight (8) member libraries in Waukesha County and raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. The project is estimated to cost $4,820. This grant will fund $4,670 and the remaining $150 will be covered by local funds. WCFLS will coordinate this project including hearing loop installation, create and distribute hearing loop promotional materials to local libraries and organize a hearing loop outreach and education event for library staff, hearing care providers, hearing loop advocates and the community.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service   14-239
Improving Auditory Accessibility in WI Public LIbraries $17,370

"Improving Auditory Accessibility in North Central Wisconsin Public Libraries" is a continuation grant which will enable Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) to enhance customer service for persons of all ages with disabilities at 13 additional public library locations in north central Wisconsin, including twelve WVLS locations and one member library from Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS). The project seeks to achieve a "sense of normalcy" whereby patrons with hearing disabilities can use their library like everybody else.

Use of closed sound systems or loop systems at service desks benefit an increasing number of library patrons of all ages who wear a personal hearing aid equipped with a receiving device. Hearing impaired persons who do not have a hearing aid equipped with a receiving device may make use of a portable hand-held receiver. The receiver also serves as an induction loop system testing device and training instrument for staff.

WVLS will assist 13 library locations to provide enhanced customer service to the hearing impaired with the installation of hearing loops at their check-out and information desks. Each location will also receive a hand held induction loop system testing device and portable hearing loop receiver. One testing/training and portable hearing loop receiver will also be purchased for each of the 9 WVLS libraries that received hearing loops as part of the successful 2013 LSTA grant project "Improving Auditory and Physical Accessibility in WVLS Public Libraries."

To promote/market these improvements in customer service and library accessibility to persons with hearing disabilities, each participating library will work with a community partner agency to broadcast information throughout the 13 participating communities and seek opportunities to raise community awareness. A training workshop designed to increase ability-awareness and knowledge of hearing loop technology will be offered, with the expectation that representatives from each of the 13 hearing loop installation locations, as well as additional participants from Wisconsin Valley Library Service, Northern Waters Library Service, community partners and other interested parties will attend.

Hearing loss affects approximately 1 out of every 10 Americans and is more prevalent than any other disability, outranking arthritis, high blood pressure and heart disease. When libraries advocate for

persons with a hearing loss, it not only raises community awareness of available technologies, but also promotes community acceptance and encourages similar adaptations in other community locations.

Early Literacy Projects

Brown County Library   14-241
Brown County Library's Early Literacy Challenge $11,706

Recent assessments found that one out of five children starting kindergartener in Green Bay public schools did not have the basic skills they need to be ready to learn. These "at risk" rates climb much higher for kindergartners from families with lower incomes or limited English proficiency. Furthermore, test scores for all Brown County school districts show that one-quarter of third graders are not proficient readers.

A spring 2013 meeting between representatives of the local Community Partnership for Children and the Green Bay Area Public School District reviewed these learning gaps. One result of that meeting is "The Early Literacy Challenge," a community-based, three-part project led by Brown County Library with the goal of getting all children ready for kindergarten.

•   "Early Literacy Challenge Kits" will package resources and tips to make it easier for home visit professionals, childcare providers, parents and others to demonstrate and use quality books and literacy-building strategies.

•   "Parent & Baby's First Literacy Challenge" will provide all parents of newborns in Brown County with a free easy-to-use "tool" to encourage specific kinds of interactions with their babies that have been shown to support bonding, healthy development and language skills.

•   The "Early Literacy Activity Challenge" will help motivate parents and other adults to spend more time engaged with their kids in a variety of enjoyable, no-cost ways that build pre-reading skills.

Key partners will enable the library to directly reach parents and children from families with low-incomes or for whom Spanish is the primary language, as well as childcare providers with a YoungStar rating of three or less. Realistic progress toward project goals will also be made possible by focusing on research-based early practices that are simple, fun and no-cost. Ongoing monthly drawings of attractive and appropriate prizes (funded locally) will increase interest and participation. Built-in feedback opportunities will gather data directly from families to measure outcomes.

Dane County Library Service   14-243
Outreach to Child Care Providers $8,090

This grant will provide three professional development sessions focused on early literacy development, for 90 child care providers who serve 450 children. Participating child care providers will be those who work at facilities with 2 and 3 YoungStar tier ratings. One training session will be conducted in Spanish for care providers who are Spanish speakers. Training sessions will take place at Dane County Libraries, which will allow participants the opportunity to sign up for library cards. Through our collaborative partnership with Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (4-C), care providers who attend the professional development sessions will earn Wisconsin registry credit.

This grant will also create 10 thematic emergent literacy kits to be circulated among six Dane County family care providers and child care centers with 2 and 3 YoungStar tier ratings, which serve 413 children. Care providers often work odd and long hours, making it difficult to get to the public library. Not all centers or family providers have the ability to transport children to their local library. By providing a monthly rotation of materials directly to the care provider, Dane County Library Service

offers much needed support to provide optimal literacy experiences for the children. Each thematic kit will contain: books, music, DVDs, manipulatives and educational toys or puppets. Dane County Library Service will work with our collaborative partners 4-C and Satellite to promote and recruit family care and child care centers that are not currently participating in this service.

Hedberg Public Library   14-245
Growing Rock County Readers: A Community-Based Early Literacy Initiative $17,805

The purpose of Growing Rock County Readers, an Arrowhead Library System Early Literacy Initiative, is threefold:

•   To increase school readiness through a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten (1000 Books B4K) program, demonstrating to parents that they are their child's first and most important teacher.

•   To promote and demonstrate the essential role of libraries in early literacy development to other county agencies by working with members of the Rock County Early Childhood Community Partnership (RCECCP).

•   To build greater capacity for Arrowhead Library Service (ALS) youth services staff to work together, expanding our ability to serve children and families in Rock County.

The past five years have been difficult for many Rock County families. The closing of the General Motors plant in Janesville, and the subsequent collapse of other businesses around the county, have left many families living at or below the poverty line. Rising poverty and the growth of the Limited English Proficiency population have combined to erode the learning environment for many Rock County families, particularly those with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The Rock County Early Childhood Community Partnership (RCECCP), a coalition of county agencies, has created a five-year strategic plan to address the dire circumstances of many of our families. One of their goals is to "enhance children's development and school readiness" with public libraries as a targeted partner.

ALS children's staff has chosen 1000 Books B4K as the lynchpin for collaborating with RCECCP. We feel it offers the most practical method of interacting with families both in our libraries and at other agency sites to demonstrate to parents that they are their child's first and most important teacher. Additionally, reading aloud to children at home has been shown to be an effective method of engaging families in early literacy activities that grow children's vocabulary and phonological awareness, as well as other pre-reading skills.

There are many models of these programs available on the newly launched Growing Wisconsin Readers website to help ALS children's staff craft our program, which will include:

•   A library bag, imprinted with the ALS 1000 Books B4K logo, for each family when they reach the 100 books-read mark. These will serve to show that participants are part of something very special and will provide "advertising" for the program as well as for ALS libraries.

•   A hard cover book upon completion of the program. Many of the children in our communities own few, if any, hard cover books and we feel this is an appropriate celebration of all their reading.

•   A collection of 20 read-along picture book kits for six of the seven ALS libraries (Hedberg Public Library already has an extensive collection of these materials). Read-along picture book kits consist of one hard cover or paperback book and a CD on which the text of the book is read aloud. They are an important tool for learning print concepts, hearing fluent reading, and increasing vocabulary and comprehension, while aiding busy parents and caregivers in their quest to reach the 1000 books before kindergarten goal.

•   A joint workshop with ALS children's staff and RCECCP agencies' staff. Training on effective community collaboration to promote early literacy will be provided by Dr. Dipesh Navsaria. A

"pediatrician, occasional children's librarian, public health professional and child health advocate," Dr. Navsaria encourages parents and caregivers to read to their children to increase school readiness.

•   A digital, mobile-friendly component – in English and Spanish – will provide promotional and educational opportunities to participants through a Word Press website/blog and Mail Chimp newsletters, featuring non-print as well as print communication.

ALS children's staff looks forward to strengthening not only our community partnerships through this project, but also our ability to work together as members of our consortium. As funding for systemwide projects is reduced, we realize that the best way to increase our programming capacity is to work together more effectively. By enhancing our relationships with county agencies and one another, we will meet the purpose of the project, to boost school readiness in Rock County. In addition, we will also meet the goals of Growing Wisconsin Readers to provide early literacy resources to Rock County families while showcasing the power of public libraries to support early literacy efforts to our communities.

Indianhead Federated Library System   14-247
Evening Out the PLAYing Field $23,276

An important role for public libraries is equalizing the playing field for early literacy, making sure that all children and their caregivers have access to information about early literacy practices, and providing them with resources and programming to help them develop these skills. The need for this is stark, and is supported by state initiatives (Growing Wisconsin Readers) and national projects (Every Child Ready to Read, 2nd Edition).

The Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) plans a multi-prong approach to help libraries and communities with these efforts. First, library staff in the region will have the opportunity to attend in-person training sessions, a bus tour of effective early literacy spaces, and webinars about child development, early literacy, and the importance of outreach efforts. In addition, IFLS staff will create an online resource and improve and develop kits to help librarians or volunteers, particularly those at very small libraries, provide excellent programming for preschoolers, infants, and toddlers and their caregivers. IFLS will purchase additional curricula for libraries to borrow (ECRR2, Very Reading Reading Program). IFLS staff will also coordinate a buddy system for youth services librarians (or volunteers) to give them more chances to support each other in the pursuit of early literacy excellence.

Finally, twenty-one libraries (Altoona, Amery, Augusta, Baldwin, Balsam Lake, Bruce, Cadott, Dresser, Durand, Eau Claire, Ellsworth, Hawkins, Milltown, New Richmond, Osceola, Park Falls, Pepin, Phillips, River Falls, Roberts and Stanley) will step up their outreach efforts by working with childcare centers, local clinics, WIC programs, Headstart, local school districts, family center programs, and teen parent programs to provide information and resources to families who might not have access to them otherwise. Each of these libraries will receive a mini-grant to help them supplement storytime aids (large motor activities, music, flannel stories, etc.); purchase curriculums; enhance early literacy environments in their children's room; and/or purchase books for giving away in start-up programs through WIC or local clinics (through Reach Out and Read or projects like it). Each library will be able to decide which of these elements is most important for them as they examine their early literacy goals and the needs of their partners.

Through these methods, we hope to even out the playing field, both across socio-economic backgrounds and around the IFLS system.

Kenosha County Library System   14-249
Starting with Science $4,638

The purpose of the "Starting with Science" project is to engage young children under the age of 6 in quality early learning experiences, to encourage their sense of discovery and interest in science, and to develop their cognitive thinking skills with inquiry-based science activities. This grant will also provide

parents and early childhood educators with the resources to explore science concepts with their child or class.

This grant will address the need for young children from low-income families to have access to quality early learning experiences that will better prepare them for learning in school, which they are less likely to have than children from higher-income families. In order to address the needs of this audience, the Kenosha Public Library will develop science kits focusing on the development of science inquiry process skills and important early literacy skills such as vocabulary, which will be used in programming in Head Start classrooms and which will be made available for checkout as part of the library's development collection.

The project goals of engaging young children in quality early science experiences and making resources available for early childhood educators & caregivers to explore science concepts with their children will be reached primarily through circulating ten themed science kits in the library's developmental collection, presenting hands-on science programs using the kits in Head Start classrooms in the spring and the fall of 2014, presenting workshops for parents and early childhood educators with simple strategies for building science inquiry skills with their child or class, and providing training for library & Head Start staff in developing science curricula for young children under the age of 6.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System   **14-251**
Reach Out and Read   **$11,500**

As the libraries in the state of Wisconsin unveil and roll out the Growing Wisconsin Readers early literacy initiative in 2013, beginning the Reach Out and Read program in early 2014 will further support the overarching goal of this statewide initiative. That goal is to provide literacy rich experiences for children ages birth to kindergarten. Research underpinning both programs clearly shows that literacy efforts are critical during this period of a child's development to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a child from six months old to age five for their entry into kindergarten. In order to begin the Reach Out and Read program in Manitowoc County, we must demonstrate that we have secured the funds necessary to support the program's first year in existence. LSTA funds will help us to do just that; we will then be able to purchase the books and create the literacy components needed to fulfill the Reach Out and Read program's objectives. Furthermore, work that has already been completed to implement the Reach Out and Read program has successfully forged a partnership between our public libraries and local pediatricians, as well as local organizations in both Manitowoc and Calumet Counties that provide similar services for the same target population of young children. It is our hope that not only the Reach Out and Read program will expand to Calumet County, but that it will also strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between local agencies that strive to serve the literacy and educational needs of our community's young children.

Mead Public Library   **14-253**
Sheboygan Early Literacy Initiative   **$6,500**

The Early Literacy Initiative is a partnership between three organizations, Mead Public Library, Reach Out and Read and Emily's Dream, to provide early literacy information and developmentally appropriate books to parents of young children from birth to kindergarten-age in Sheboygan Wisconsin. Furthermore, it will encourage parents to read daily with their young children from birth, to visit the public library, and to make use of the resources available there to prepare their children for learning to read and succeed when starting school.

Emily's Dream delivers early literacy information and a baby appropriate book to the parents of newborn children at the Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. Reach Out and Read works with pediatricians to give books to young children at wellness exams, using the books as part of the child's developmental assessment. Both of these programs give books to children but will also promote using the public library and include coupons to join the library's 1000 Books before Kindergarten early literacy

program. The 1000 Books before Kindergarten program encourages parents to read to their young children with the goal of reaching 1000 books before the child starts five-year-old kindergarten. The program also shares reading readiness information and tips for parents. Children receive a new book when completing the program.

The primary populations targeted are low-income families and Spanish-speaking families, although other families will benefit as well. Primary uses of the LSTA grant money will be for early literacy brochures for distribution; Spanish language early literacy materials; books for the Reach Out and Read program; and to create an early literacy book collection at Mead Public Library. This collection will include English, Spanish and bilingual materials.

Northern Waters Library Service   14-255
1000 Books Before Kindergarten in NWLS Libraries $23,680

Northern Waters Library Service member libraries are passionately committed to improving early literacy through enhancing library services to children ages 0-5 years and their caregivers. Through this project, twenty-one libraries will implement 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

All children, no matter their socio-economic status, deserve the joy of reading and the skills in life that literacy brings. Studies show that children living in poverty start school at a disadvantage. In the NWLS region, the poverty statistics are staggering (52% of the our area's children qualify for free and reduced lunch and in some areas the numbers are much higher - Lac du Flambeau 88%, Bayfield 71%, Webster 71% and Winter 66%).

Children living in northern Wisconsin have limited exposure to literacy experiences. Child care facilities in the north with a YoungStar rating of five are limited to the Family Forum Headstarts, usually one per county and in the largest communities. All other registered day cares have a YoungStar rating of three or less. Participating libraries will reach out to child care centers with the lower ratings to improve the literacy experiences of the children and their families attending those centers. An important part of the outreach will be to have story times at the center and/or invite those children to come to the library. During the outreach visits, librarians will talk about what they will find at the library, what the library looks like and how to get a library card.

Another important element of this project is training. A workshop is planned to give librarians the tools to develop their storytelling techniques when working with children ages 0-5 years. The tradition of storytelling with children is not limited to entertainment but has also been shown to be an important component of literacy skills development. Research consistently supports the positive impact when librarians use storytelling to increase childhood literacy skills. Children who are part of storytelling activities are more prepared for reading and writing (Snowden, 1995); general language skills increase (Jackson, 1995); their vocabulary and word comprehension is enhanced (Trostle and Hicks, 1998); they are likely to improve knowledge in both broad and specific topics (Zipes, 1995); and, their creativity, imagination and memory are expanded (National Council of Teachers of English, 1997). Training opportunities are also planned to help librarians implement 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, demonstrate ways to get books and developmental information into the hands of parents, ways to close the literacy gap, "Ready, Set, Kindergarten" a fun program to help parents and their children read, play, and learn together and "Read, Play, Grow" a program for babies and toddlers at the library that encourages development and literacy through reading and playing.

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   14-257
Reach out and Read in SW Wisconsin $6,920

"Thirty-four percent of American children start kindergarten without the skills they need to learn to read. Children living in low-income communities are especially at risk. Children who start out with reading difficulties are more likely to remain poor readers and fall behind in school. In Wisconsin, children in

urban and rural communities are equally at-risk." (Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, http://www.chawisconsin.org/ror.htm)

Prior to 2013, many of the libraries in SWLS would have stated that they had very strong early literacy programs due in part to the 2005 initiative by the Division for Libraries and Technology. In 2013, two things occurred that changed that feeling for the Barneveld and Mineral Point Public Libraries.

 In 2013, the Barneveld and Mineral Point Publc Libraries and six (6) other member libraries participated in the Steppingstones for Success early math and science literacy LSTA grant.   Through the grant activities, these two libraries, realized that more could, and needed to, be done to strengthen early literacy skills when it came to reading. In particular, they realized that in reaching out to the parents of the target audience, many of the parents lacked the skills to model not only math and science concepts, but basic reading skills as well.

In July of 2013, SWLS hosted Karin Mahoney, from the Reach Out and Read Wisconsin program. The libraries were excited to learn more about the program after hearing Dr. Dispesh Navsaria speak at the February 2013 Steppingstones to Success workshop presented by SWLS. There are no Reach Out and Read program participating clinics in Iowa County.

This grant will work to improve the early literacy skills of children ages birth to 5 years old who live in poverty in southwest Wisconsin. This will be accomplished in three ways: improving the knowledge and skills of library staff, creating outreach programs that provide parents and caregivers with techniques for modeling literacy skills, and making it possible for the Reach Out and Read program to be started in three (3) clinics in Iowa County.

Literacy Projects

Kenosha County Library System   14-261
¡Bienvenidos a Su Biblioteca! Welcome to Your Library! Reaching Out to La $14,430

The Kenosha Public Library Reference Services Division, in partnership with the Kenosha Literacy Council, is applying for an LSTA competitive literacy grant. We wish and need to do more to welcome Latinos to our libraries, make them feel comfortable using our facilities, and assist them in locating and using resources that can enrich their lives. These individuals were 16.3% of the City of Kenosha's population in 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau) and 66% of those served by the Council (371 adults) in 2011-2012.

This proposal is specifically designed to improve services to adult Spanish speakers with limited English skills who wish to acquire more proficiency in this language and learn more about their library system. However, many more Hispanic adults will benefit from the activities, if the grant is awarded. Libraries have something for everyone, not just the highly educated. Raising awareness, improving cultural sensitivity, and addressing misconceptions or fears about using a library are crucial.

Project activities will include professional development to facilitate understanding of Hispanic culture, occupational Spanish tutorials and materials for library employees to provide better service to immigrant patrons, and ordering more Spanish language materials, in various formats, related to English language instruction, GED and U.S. citizenship test preparation, job hunting, computer literacy, and health. Small group discussions in English about library topics (facilitated by a librarian and KLC tutor or staff member), tours of our two largest libraries, computer classes that present an overview of a new language instruction database, and mention quality resources in Spanish available through Wisconsin's BadgerLink Web site, and a Family Literacy Night celebration at the Uptown Library during Hispanic Heritage Month complete the grant activities and events. A literacy council Hispanic Student Advisory Committee,

bilingual signage, innovative display concepts, translation services, and targeted marketing efforts to reach more Latinos in the city will help accomplish these tasks through 2014.

Milwaukee Public Library   14-263
Welcome to the Library $15,000

Forest Home Library will expand its reach in the Spanish speaking community which is heavily concentrated in the surrounding neighborhood by partnering with the Spanish Center at 1615 S. 22nd Street.

Adult students in Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Learners (ELL) classes will first complete a survey to help inform MPL and Spanish Center staff of barriers to using the library. Informational sessions at the Spanish Center and sessions, tours and programming at the Forest Home Library will be tailored to address knowledge gaps and reduce barriers to library use.

As part of their classroom instruction students will draft an easy to read bilingual introduction to the library, which will be edited and printed for distribution to new students at the Spanish Center and for use at future library outreach events.

The Spanish Center will also work with the Library to establish a temporary, grant-funded library internship position. They will recommend and recruit a bilingual graduate of their program to work at Forest Home Library. The intern will have the opportunity to learn more about working in a library, further breaking down barriers by greeting visitors, assisting patrons with translating when talking with non-Spanish speaking library staff and answering general directional, computer and printing/copying requests and helping with self-checkout stations. They may also participate in outreach events and certainly will share what they have learned about the library with family, friends and neighbors.

Spooner Memorial Library   14-265
Navigating a Digital World $7,400

In order to provide an opportunity to improve the computer literacy skills of adults who are unemployed, under employed and living in poverty within our community, the Spooner Memorial and Shell Lake libraries, along with our respective Community Education Associations and the Educational Opportunity Network (EON) Program sponsored by the University of Wisconsin System, have joined together to provide training designed to increase the computer literacy of adults in need and to help them learn how to 'Navigate in a Digital World'. The Spooner Memorial and Shell Lake libraries, along with their partners will work together to plan, execute and evaluate a program that will both encourage and enable adults living in poverty to increase their computer literacy. Our plan is three fold and includes conducting computer training classes, presenting hands on experience with current technology and offering one on one consultation with technology experts. In an age where economic, educational, health, and social opportunities increasingly depend on access to the Internet, lack of access means lack of opportunity. These learners will have a solid grasp of social networking, be able to search and apply online for employment, access daily news, health information, government documents and programs online. Providing computer training for the under employed, unemployed and those living in poverty in Washburn County is critical not only to individual residents but to the current and future welfare of our community. The LSTA grant, Navigating the Digital World, will allow the Shell Lake and Spooner Libraries, our local partners provide an opportunity for residents who need, not a hand out, but a hand up.